Draft Recommendations Regarding State / Regional Level Communications Coordination

The FCC shall encourage the formation at the State (or Regional) level of a communications coordination and planning body to work with the telecommunications and media industry as follows:

1. Each State's Emergency Preparedness Plan should clearly identify staging areas for Telecommunications and Media Infrastructure Providers (TIPs hereafter) where credentialing, security, escorts, and further coordination can be achieved. Where possible, web based applications designed to pre-clear or expedite movement of TIPs into a disaster area should be made available. The FCC should create a web site of state emergency management contacts and staging areas information (ESF-2).

2. Criteria for designating TIPs as emergency responders during or immediately following a disaster should be developed and incorporated into the National Response Plan, as well as state and local emergency response plans.

3. Federal Emergency Management and Response agencies, state and local emergency managers, and TIPs, should coordinate to identify damaged telecommunications infrastructure, assign priorities in repair of the damaged infrastructure, sharing of resources (e.g. fuel and security forces), identify what personnel need to enter into security perimeter around a disaster area to make repairs, and provide coordination.

4. TIPs shall coordinate with state or local Emergency Operations Centers their requests to enter into a controlled access disaster area. Requests for access and support will be coordinated at the EOC level and not at the perimeter point of entry.

5. Credentialing procedures and requirements for TIPs should be produced and published by a federal agency to ensure uniformity among state and local government. A federal guideline can be amended as needed by state and local governments but should be published in advance.

6. TIPs should work with state and local governments throughout the year where possible to settle issues which may delay or impede important TIP damage repair. Examples of issues which can be addressed in advance include security personnel, updating credentials or credentialing process, changes in infrastructure or its level of demand and relative importance to essential communications, etc.

7. The FCC shall urge and facilitate coordination between telecommunications and media industries and state and local emergency preparedness officials. The parties should meet on a periodic basis to identify vulnerabilities in the telecommunications infrastructure, develop strategies to mitigate those vulnerabilities, construct joint preparedness and response plans, and conduct joint exercises.